

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2599
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
CONTRACEPTIVE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to allow inclusion of Emergency Contraceptive (EC) or `Morning After Pills` for women in the family welfare programme in order to help women to avert unwilling pregnancy and consequent abortion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which the EC is likely to be introduced; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide additional funds for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): The available methods of fertility regulation are quite safe and effective and their use can help couples to decide when and how often to allow pregnancy to occur. In addition to these regular contraceptives, there are methods available which can be used post-coitally after an unprotected sexual intercourse and provide a backup for individuals at risk of unplanned pregnancy. These methods are known as emergency contraceptives or the `Morning After Pill` when used within a period of 3 to 5 days. The issue of inclusion of the emergency contraceptive in the National Family Welfare Programme is somewhat premature. The product is, however, readily available commercially.

(c)&(d): Data with these methods is somewhat limited in our country. In order to generate large scale recent data in respect of the Indian population, a multicentric study at 5 centres is proposed to be initiated by Indian Council of Medical Research to look into the safety, efficacy and acceptability aspects of two different options.

(e): Based on data generated by this study, a detailed plan of action will be prepared and examined.